

July 1, 2003

Dear Sirs:

I am a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, callsign N6VHF. I have been licensed for approximately 15 years. In this time, my radio equipment has been plagued by noise from many sources like power line noise to neighbor's electronic equipment. This has been an uphill battle with new noise making devices coming on the market every day. I have spent many fruitless years dealing with my local power company trying to get them to correct noisy lines. They cannot even control their power line noise now, so why would we think they could control the noise created by BPL?

The worst potential noisemaker to come along in my 15 years of hamming is the BPL issue. This Broadband over Power Lines at the power levels the companies are asking for could easily be the end of amateur radio. With the advanced technologies we have today, people have become complacent and think that cell phones will be all they need during a disaster. We know, especially after 9-11, that this isn't the case. As you know, several teams of Amateur Radio operators were called in to provide needed communications at "ground zero." If these BPL power levels are allowed, we may not have any hams to turn to when the next tornado, forest fire or other disaster occurs. No one will be able to hear each other over all the noise.

There is currently a plethora of established means for people to get Internet services. DSL, cable modems, dial-up, wireless and satellite are all available to just about everyone, even those in rural areas. This is just another way for private companies to make money at the cost of Amateur Radio operators and other spectrum users.

Amateur Radio is a valuable resource and it must be protected. As the FCC, you have promised to protect licensed users of the spectrum. To allow the companies in question to use BPL at the power levels they are requesting would go against your promise to protect. With this letter, I am requesting that the FCC deny any modification to the existing part 15 rules regarding BPL technology.

In closing, let me pose a few questions. What did we do before we had the Internet? Why has it become so important that we are considering allowing the utility companies to cause widespread noise on our precious spectrum?

Thank You,

Neil Jessen – N6VHF
Anaheim, California